

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace all previously pending claims with the listing of claims set forth below:

1. (Currently Amended) An addition salt comprising[:] azithromycin and citric acid, in which the molar ratio between the azithromycin and the citric acid ~~is such as to provide~~ provides a pH between 4.0 and 6.0 in a 10% aqueous solution, and wherein said the addition salt is azithromycin hydrogen citrate.

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The addition~~ Addition salt of azithromycin according to Claim 1, ~~which further comprises further comprising~~ up to 3% of residual matter solvent.

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The addition~~ Addition salt of azithromycin according to Claim 1, wherein ~~when~~ the molar ratio of azithromycin and citric acid is ~~1:1~~ close to the stoichiometric ratio providing a pH of 5 ~~is provided~~ in a 10% aqueous solution.

10-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A process~~ Process for preparing an addition salt of azithromycin according to Claim 1, comprising the steps of:

- a) dissolving azithromycin in a solvent or mixture of solvents to produce a solution;
- b) adding citric acid to the solution to form the addition salt; and
- c) isolating the ~~product~~ addition salt obtained.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The process~~ Process according to Claim 12, ~~further comprising that~~ wherein the azithromycin is dissolved in monohydrated form in step (a).

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The process~~ Process according to Claim 12, ~~further comprising that wherein the~~ azithromycin is dissolved in dihydrated form in step (a).

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The process~~ Process according to Claim 12, ~~further comprising that wherein~~ the solvent is selected from[:] the group consisting of water; the linear or branched C1-C6 C₁-C₆ aliphatic alcohols, such as methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol; cyclic aliphatic alcohols, such as cyclohexanol; diols, such as ethylene glycol; linear or branched C1-C6 C₁-C₆ aliphatic ketones, such as acetone, methyl-ethyl ketone, methyl-isobutyl ketone; cyclic aliphatic ketones, such as cyclohexanone; short-chain aliphatic esters, such as ethyl acetate; short-[]chain aliphatic ethers such as ethyl ether, isopropyl ether, etc.; cyclic aliphatic ethers such as tetrahydrofuran and dioxane, or; and mixtures thereof.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The process~~ Process according to Claim 12, wherein the azithromycin monohydrate or dihydrate is dissolved; and the solvent is selected from the group consisting of water, alcohols, ketones, esters or, ethers, or and mixtures thereof; preferably water, ethanol, acetone, methyl acetate or tetrahydrofuran, or mixtures thereof.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The process~~ Process according to claim 12, further comprising the step of adding an amount of citric acid in step (b) such that the molar ratio between the azithromycin and the citric acid is close to the stoichiometric ratio.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The process~~ Process according to claim 12, ~~for the preparation of azithromycin hydrogen citrate further comprising wherein~~ in step (c) the salt is isolated by crystallization.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The process~~ Process according to Claim 18, wherein step c) further comprises:

[c-ji] crystallising at a crystallization temperature between 25° C and the solvent's reflux temperature; and

[c]-jii) cooling the mixture at a temperature between 0° C and 25° C, before separating the crystals.

20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ for preparing solutions of an addition salt of azithromycin according to Claim 1, in water or water-alcohol mixtures containing up to 65% of said salt, which comprises[:] dissolving the azithromycin hydrogen citrate in water or water-alcohol mixtures and filtering the solution obtained.

23-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method for the therapeutic treatment of an infection caused by bacteria or protozoans, comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective amount of the addition salt of azithromycin according to Claim 1.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for the preventive treatment of an infection caused by bacteria or protozoans, comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective amount of the addition salt of azithromycin according to Claim 1.

28. (Currently Amended) The addition ~~Addition~~ salt of azithromycin according to Claim 1, wherein said addition salt is in solid state.

29. (Currently Amended) The addition ~~Addition~~ salt of azithromycin according to Claim 2 28, wherein said ~~addition salt solid state~~ is in a crystalline solid state.

30. (New) The addition salt of azithromycin according to Claim 29, further comprising up to 8% by weight of water.

31. (New) The addition salt of azithromycin according to Claim 29, further comprising up to 6% by weight of water.